

10/511301

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket Q83836

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A postal sorting machine (1) having sort outlets (7) distributed in one or more horizontal rows (6a, 6b) that are superposed and parallel, the machine being characterized in that a bin transfer structure (3) is disposed along said rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7), said transfer structure (3) comprising one or more superposed bin conveyors (9) extending parallel to respective rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets, and one or more superposed gangways (10; 10', 10'') that are movable along the rows (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7), each extending between a row (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7) and a corresponding bin conveyor (9) to enable at least one storage bin (4) to be transferred from a sort outlet (7) to a corresponding bin conveyor (9).

2. (Original) A postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1, in which a corresponding row (6a, 6b) of sort outlets (7), bin conveyor (9), and gangway (10) are disposed substantially in the same horizontal plane.

3. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which each machine (9) is a belt conveyor.

4. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which each conveyor (9a) is an accumulation conveyor.

5. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to any preceding claim, in which the conveyors (9) are arranged to move the storage bins (4) in two opposite directions so as to be capable of taking the storage bins (4) at one end towards an inlet (8) of the sorting machine (1), and at the other end towards a bin removal point (Ev).

6. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to any preceding claim, in which each gangway (10) includes a set of parallel idler rollers (17) on which the storage bins (4) are placed.

7. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to any preceding claim, in which each gangway (10) is arranged to be capable of being raised or lowered, or of being withdrawn.

8. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to any preceding claim, in which each gangway (10) is mounted on a wheeled carriage (15).

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9. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, in which each gangway (10) is mounted on a frame (11) of the corresponding bin conveyor (9).

10. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting machine (1) according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, in which the superposed gangways are offset from one another in a vertical plane extending transversely to the rows of sort outlets.